T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 1, Monday the 30th of June, 2025

Calendar:

Mon June 30 Student Arrival Day - Check-in at the Porter's Lodge
1:00 p.m. Lunch, Dining Hall
2:00 p.m. Meet, Greet, & Quick Tour of Campus, Grove Quad
6:15 p.m. Lincoln College Welcome, Oakeshott Room
6:30 p.m. Dinner, Dining Hall
7:30 p.m. Tea, Coffee and Chat, JCR

Tues July 1 Opening Day.
9:00 a.m. Making the Most of the Bodleian Library, Oakeshott Room
10:00 a.m. Introduction to the Lincoln College Library
10:50 a.m. Meet at Porter's Lodge **with passports** to walk to the Bodleian Library
11:00 a.m. Bodleian Registration, Bodleian Convocation House
1:00 p.m. Lunch
2:30 p.m. Mentor-Hosted Orientation–ice breaking/trivia, Grove Quad
3:30-5:30 p.m. Campus and Town Tour, Porter's Lodge
6:00 p.m. Reception and High Table (Formal Dinner), Grove Quad

Wed July 2 First Day of Classes!

Thurs July 3 5:00 p.m. Senior Meeting, Deep Hall

Monday June 30th: *Congratulations, you made it!* Happy Arrival Day. Is jet lag real, or a construct? Either way, we don't have anything super intensive planned for today. If you want to spend time getting oriented, however, there are optional quick tours of campus and the immediate surrounding area at 2 p.m. (This may be helpful if you already realize you forgot a toothbrush or other essentials.)

After dinner, get together for some low pressure/non mandatory socializing at the JCR with some tea and coffee.

Tuesday July 1: *Opening Day!* Unlike yesterday, we do have some required things and fun ritualized bureaucracy for you to enjoy.

Here they are, in order of required-ness:

***Highly Required*:**

1) The three-part library extravaganza begins at 9 a.m. sharp - librarians are as punctual as they are erudite - in the Oakeshott Room. This is a rite of passage all Bread Loaf Oxford (BLOX) Students need to go through.
2) Opening Reception begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Grove Quad (This is the quad where we can actually touch grass, opposed to the other quad whose grass is just meant to be admired and philosophized.)

Highly Recommended:

1) At 2:30 p.m., the Bread Loaf mentor team will be hosting a gathering on Grove Quad. Stop by to say "hi" and/or to show off your trivia chops.
2) At 3:30 p.m. BLOX mentors will give more thorough tours (compared to those offered yesterday) of campus and the surrounding area.

Consumption of Mass Quantities (aka Meal Times)*:

Breakfast:	8:00-8:45 (Mon. -Sat.) 8:45-9:30 (Sunday)
Lunch:	12:45-1:30
Dinner:	6:30 -7:30
Formal Dinners:	7:15 (on noted occasions)

***Note:** The kitchen staff would like to benevolently emphasize that meals are best enjoyed closest to their preparation time, and therefore, encourage fellow gastronomes to be present closer to the start of the serving time when possible.

Off-Campus People: You will have to pay for regular everyday meals, but you are invited to attend formal dinners free of charge (including the opening dinner this Tuesday.)

Formal Dinners / What to Wear?: The opening dinner on Tuesday is a traditional formal dinner with a high table. Here are some guidelines:

- ★ Wear something *nice*. Think slightly elevated business casual.
- ★ Following the introduction and drinks reception, the butler will invite us into dinner by ringing a bell. Enter the hall and remain standing behind the bench until we are all invited to sit. Rituals = Culture.
- ★ You should have registered your dietary restrictions a few weeks ago. Your server will *either* confirm this with you once you are seated *OR* there will be a sign to pick up upon entering the Dining Hall *if* you have a dietary restriction. If you have NOT registered your dietary needs, you will be served a regular, meaty, gluten-filled meal. The chef prepares a certain number of vegetarian and special meals ahead of time depending on the information we have provided, so *please don't steal someone else's meal*.
- ★ Practice some decorum: Please don't leave until all courses are finished.
- ★ There will be an abundance of wine. Similar to the inclusion of important plot elements in postmodern novels, your wine glass will be replenished suddenly and etherally. Be wise.

<u>POI</u>:

BreadWeb: *What if I told you* there was a social media platform devoid of ad revenue and the algorithms were benevolent and/or nonexistent. Welcome to Bread Web where you do not have to decide which color pill to take. This will be our primary mode of *communication and future news and issues of the Paniculum will be posted here*. Stay up to date with fun social events and the pursuit of high culture.

The Porters are the friendly people who greeted you upon arrival. The place where they work is called *the lodge*. They can help you with a plethora of things, including room keys, stamping and sending your mail, giving directions, etc. It's also nice to introduce yourself, so they have a sense of who is here for the summer.

Deep Hall is your friendly on-campus pub. You enter via the staircase from Grove Quad. The drinks are subsidized by the British government! Hours Tuesday-Friday 6 p.m.-11p.m.

Laundry Cards information should have been included with the paperwork you received when you checked in. You top them up online, and the machines are available in the basement of *Staircase 8*.

The Bread Loaf Office: *Opens Tuesday After Lunch* in Chapel Quad, at the foot of Staircase 7. Here you can meet your Director's Assistants: Matt Cinotti & Chris Amuzzini (also the editor of the Paniculum aka *the thing you're reading now*). If you are more of a materialist than a social butterfly, stop by anyway as *we've got gadgets and gizmos aplenty; we've got whozits and whatzits galore.* We have a collection of things up for grabs, left behind by past BLOXers, including fans, lamps, teapots, and a few yoga mats. These will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

Vault 33/Passport Protection: If you'd like to store your passport or other valuables in the office safe, bring it on by the office. *You only have access to this safe during office hours* (so this may not be ideal if you are planning any weekend trips.) Remember to retrieve it during office hours before you leave the country.

What does IT stand for?!: Connecting to Wifi directions should be in your arrival packets. You do not need to connect to a specific printer; printing is done through a web interface that you should have access to as soon as you connect to the Wifi. IT expert, Mike White, will be in the office intermittently, whenever he is not up in the cloud making sure it is doing whatever the cloud does to keep society from collapsing. Feel free to stop by the office and ask any of us for help.

Miscellaneous:

T-Shirt Design Contest: OK artists and fashionistas, *show us what you got*. We will be accepting T-shirt designs through July 8th. Students will then vote on a winner; your art will be immortalized on a purchasable t-shirt. (I still rock mine from 2018 - do the kids still say *rock*?) Please refer to *BreadWeb* for specific criteria.

T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 2, Thursday 3rd of July 2025

Calendar:

Thursday, July 3rd 5:00 p.m. Senior Meeting, Deep Hall

Sunday, July 6th 7:00 p.m. Blue Hall Readings, Oakeshott Room

Affable Reminders:

July 8th: Last Day for T-Shirt Design Submissions.

July 10th: Final Day to submit to Bread Loaf Journal.

Let us Know, Before You Go-Go / Don't leave us hanging on like Umberto Eco. If you plan on being off campus for any meals, please let us know via a google form here or on Bread Web. This way our chefs do necessarily prepare excessive food to only have to discard it. Give it your best guess – it is OK if you end up changing your mind later; we just want an estimate. Don't be a ~~H~~Litterbug.

Mandatory Fun! Senior Meeting: This Thursday (5 p.m.) all seniors should join us in Deep Hall as we discuss topics like Graduation, Senior Picnic, etc. This conversation will be led by our esteemed Head Tutor and ebullient Exeter fan, Jeri Johnson. *Know Your H:* Also, I will be asking you for your height measurement so that we can begin the regalia ordering process. What is more fun than processes? Also, you have your own exclusive Bread Web subgroup here. Please join and star the group to stay up to date on all senior events.

Last Orders: On Friday there is a private memorial service and reception, to mark the passing of Dr. Eric Sidebottom. He was a Fellow and Tutor in Medicine at Lincoln from 1972 to 1987. Following the burial nearby, mourners will be arriving at Lincoln for a reception in the Rector's Garden. Please be mindful of the volume of your conversations and be respectful by giving them some space when possible.

Show Us What You Got: Please take a minute to let us know whether you'd like to participate or whether you'd like to attend as an audience member at our first *Blue Hall Reading*, to be held in the Oakshott Room this Sunday evening, July 6th. Come hear original student poetry, short fiction, creative essays, song, dance, or other work that's being produced in our community. We are still looking for readers/performers, so please refer to the google form here, on Bread Web and/or you can see the host of Blue Hall, Tim Ree.

Kafoodle!: It is not a new Pokemon, nor is it a cute euphemism for clustercuss. It is how you can preview the menu for the week. The link is here and will be pinned in, say it with me, Bread Web. Here you can preview potential allergens or prematurely orchestrate a pavlovian response in yourself, as you anticipate the delicious meals the kitchen staff has queued up for us.

T-Shirt Design Contest: *Tell them where you've been by wearing a t-shirt.* We are still accepting T-shirt designs until Tuesday, July 8th. Details are on Bread Web or click link here. We need to immortalize this Oxfordian experience with a t-shirt – otherwise it will be like it never happened.

Publish or Perish?!: Please see a call for prose and papers from our Vermont coordinator, Dana Olsen:

> Submit to the Bread Loaf Journal!
>
> Greetings from across the pond! We in Vermont are looking for your submissions to the Bread Loaf Journal. Take a break from playing darts in Deep Hall and dodging tourists to send us your writing and art. Give Simon the bartender our best. The submission form is here, and on Bread Web. It is live until the deadline of 11:59 p.m. on July 10.

To Oxford with Love: Do you have someone that cares about you? Do you like the thrill of receiving an Amazon package with all of the existential implications that are delivered with it? Well, either way, you'll need your mailing address:

> Bread Loaf School of English
> Lincoln College
> Turl Street
> Oxford OX1 3DR
> UK

Mail will first arrive at the porter's lodge and then be transferred to the Bread Loaf Office (lucky Staircase 7). Our hours of operation will be posted on the door. Feel free to stop by to check in!

Libraries, Libraries Everywhere: Some helpful tips from our friendly librarian Lucy Matheson. University tours conclude today and if you are looking for a quiet place to work you may use the lower floor of the Main Library or use our new reading room in Bear Lane. **(**Guide to finding it: From the Main Library, cross the High Street and go down the lane beside The Ivy restaurant. At The Bear pub, turn left into Bear Lane. The entrance gate is on the left. Then follow these instructions https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeE3g1-DAWE The Bear Lane Reading Room stays open till 2am, but the Main Library closes at 11pm. The same rules apply as in the Main Library.)

- Hot drinks are now permitted in the Library and Main Library, as long as they are in a container with a lid. But no food is permitted.

- There is a kitchenette in the Bear Lane Reading Room where students can make hot drinks.

- There are two discussion rooms in the Bear Lane Reading Room, which can be booked using the sign-up sheets on the notice boards outside them. If they haven't been booked, it's first-come, first-served.

- The bells in the Library Tower will be rung 3:15 - 4.15 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday 27 July 2 – 5 p.m. The regular practice session is 7:30 - 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. Some people find they can work in the Main Library during bell-ringing; others can't.

- Also be aware that during the summer vacation, the following libraries and collections will be moving to the Humanities Library: English Faculty Library; History of Medicine Library; Music Faculty Library; Oxford Internet Institute Library; Philosophy and Theology Faculties Library; Film collections from the Taylor Institution Library. These libraries will close at 5 p.m. on Friday 4 July and not reopen until late September.

    - Any of our other open libraries can be used as study spaces during this time. (See Link above.)

- During the move and closure there will be reduced access to some of the items and services.

T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 3, Monday, the 7th of July, 2025

Calendar:

Tuesday, July 8th 4:00 p.m. BLTN Meeting, Deep Hall

5:00 p.m. Gwyneth Lewis Reading, Oakeshott Room

7:30 p.m. Senior Meeting, Deep Hall

Affable Reminders:

July 8th: Last Day for T-Shirt Design Submissions.

July 10th: Final Day to submit to Bread Loaf Journal

July 11th: Fill out *The Winter's Tale* Google Form (Also via Bread Web)

BLTN First Meeting!: Do you like teaching? Do you like talking about teaching? Do you like sandwich adjacent acronyms? If you replied yes to any of these questions, please attend the first meeting, Tuesday at 4 p.m. in Deep Hall. This meeting is open to all students, and this is a great meeting to go to if you have never been. Please see coordinator, Mary Baillie, if you have any questions. (P.S. If you said to yourself, "BLTN is not an acronym; it is an initialism", know that you are a real one and I see you.)

An Evening with Nightshade – and Infinite Wit!: *Commanded me these most poisonous compounds, / Which are the movers of a languishing death: / But though slow, deadly.* On Tuesday evening (5 p.m.), come to the Oakeshott Room to hear resident Bread Loaf Professor, Gwyneth Lewis, perform a reading from her latest work, *Nightshade Mother.*

> Bio and Accolades: Gwyneth Lewis was Wales's first National Poet and wrote the words in six-foot-high letters on the front of the iconic Wales Millennium Centre. She has been teaching at Bread Loaf both in Vermont and Oxford since 2015. Gwyneth was awarded an MBE for services to literature and mental health, and she is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the Learned Society of Wales. *First Rain in Paradise* is her tenth poetry collection. Her memoir of maternal emotional abuse, *Nightshade Mother: A Disentangling* was a *Guardian* Book of the Year in 2024 and is shortlisted for the Wales Book of the Year.

Books will be available for sale after the reading. (Cash and card payments accepted.) And if you ask nicely, you may even get yours signed!

***The Winter's Tale* in Summer:** Prevent possible temperature climbs and see Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. Tickets are free for all students. The performance will be held at The Royal Shakespeare in Stratford-Upon-Avon. Please check Bread Web for an incoming survey on shuttle service. Please fill out the survey here, even if you do not plan to attend, as we have a waitlist for nonstudents. There will be a shuttle that departs from campus early to give students time to see some sights and one later if the sight of the play is beautiful enough.

Consumption of Mass Quantities (aka <u>Updated</u> Meal Times):

Breakfast: 8:00-8:45 (Mon. -Sat.) 8:45-9:30 (Sun.)

Lunch: 12:45-1:30

Dinner: 6:30 -7:15 (Mon. - Fri.) 6:30-7:00 (Sat. & Sun.)

Formal Dinners: 7:15 (on noted occasions)

Deep Hall Serving Hours: (Tue.- Fri.) 6-11

Scouting Ahead: *Carpe Dentum; Seize the Teeth!* Shoutout to all of our amazing scouts and maintenance staff. Here are scheduled cleaning times organized by Stairwell:

Monday: full bed change and towel change
Thursday: second towel change

Staircase 1

Staircase 2

Staircase 12

Staircase 13

Tuesday: full bed change and towel change
Friday: second towel change

Staircase 5

Staircase 6

Staircase 7

Staircase 8

Staircase 10

Staircase 11

THE PANICULUM

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 4, Thursday, the 10th of July, 2025

Calendar:

Sunday, July 13th 7:30 p.m. Blue Hall Readings, Oakeshott Room

Affable Reminders:

July 10th: Final Day to submit to Bread Loaf Journal (Here or on Bread Web)

July 11th: Fill out *The Winter's Tale* Google Form (Also via Bread Web)

July 13th: Vote for the 2025 BLOX T-Shirt Design (Click or on Bread Web)

MandatoryMeal Survey: Will You Be Dining with Us? Respond Here!

Blue Hall: Please consider being a reader or audience member at this week's Blue Hall - indicate your enthusiasm here, or on Bread Web. This will be held on Sunday 7:30 p.m. in the Oakeshott Room.

Five Lessons I Learned from the Last Blue Hall:

1) If you see someone nailing skulls to the wall, this should register at least as a beige flag.
2) Everyone – especially assiduous rule followers – need a childhood summer apropos to *The Purge.*
3) *American Horror Story: Hotel* is the G.O.A.T..
4) Saunas help us combat, but simultaneously cultivate, a hyper awareness of our imminent mortality.
5) Dogs are better than people.

~~**Food for Thought**~~ **Thoughts on Food:** If you have any feedback for our amazing kitchen staff, please articulate it in the medium of a prepared google form here or on Bread Web. (This is different from the mandatory form where you tell us which meals you will be attending.)

Shuttlecocks: Definition (1) a cork with attached feathers used primarily in badminton and battledore (2) a Ford Madox Ford allusion (3) an effective marketing tool to get you to fill out the google form here to indicate which shuttle you prefer to depart on when you see *The Winter's Tale* – Wednesday, July 16th? (This is the last word in *The Good Soldier;* if you knew this, buy yourself a Boddington's draft from Deep Hall.)

Vote or Cry; Rock the Shirt!: Don't miss your opportunity to vote on this year's T-shirt design winner here. We have four entries this year; see Bread Web for details. *There can be only one!*

Don't Fob like It's Your Job.: I know many of us have been fastidiously cultivating Austenean decorums over the years, but please do not share your fob or hold doors for people that you do not know or are in Lincoln uniforms. Using whatever gracious and/or elaborate gesture, you should instead magnanimously direct them to the porters.

Local Excursion: Rousham Park House & Garden: (The ampersand is how you know it's classy!) This issue's local excursion is brought to you by Professor John Fyler. Rousham Park House & Garden is a lovely way to spend an afternoon. "It's so quiet; there are butterflies" (Fyler, 2025). Although no food is available on site, they encourage you to bring your own and picnic. It even has a "ha-ha" – this is a fancy word for ditch, but it gives the landscape an aesthetic quality similar to that of an infinity pool. Fyler's insider tip: take the train there and the bus back for cost and time efficiency. Including transportation and admission expect the cost to be ~£20. Additional Information can be found here.

Posh Word Substitutions: Paper Circle = Doily (Gwyneth Lewis). Ditch = Ha-Ha (John Fyler).

Heard Around Campus: "*Like, what's going on with the pigeons?"*

T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 5, Monday, the 14th of July, 2025

Calendar:

Tuesday, July 15th 4:00 p.m. BLTN Meeting, JCR

5:00 p.m. Emma Smith Lecture, Oakeshott Room

6:30 p.m. Reception, Grove Quad

7:15 p.m. Formal Hall/High Table

Wednesday, July 16th *The Winter's Tale* - All-School Play

10:00 a.m. First Shuttle Departure, Catte Street

3:00 p.m. Second Shuttle Departure, Catte Street

Affable Reminders:

Overdue: Fill out *The Winter's Tale* Google Form (Also via Bread Web)
(^^ Yes fill this out - even if you're not attending.)

July 16th: No Dinner Meal Service (Due to the All-School Play)

July 18th: Order A T-Shirt and/or Tote (Here or on Bread Web)

Does Everyone Need an Editor?: Come hear Emma Smith's lecture on 'Editing Shakespeare in/for the 21st Century'. Drawing in particular on her edition of *Twelfth Night* forthcoming with Arden, this lecture will be about what editors of Shakespeare have done in the past and what to do now - asking questions about text, performance, meaning and ideology. This will be held on Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Oakeshott Room; reception will follow.

Bio: Emma Smith –Professor of Shakespeare Studies at Hertford College, Oxford and a former Director of Bread Loaf Oxford. Recent books include *This Is Shakespeare*, and *Portable Magic: A History of Books and Their Readers*.

Christmas in July: Many visit Stratford-upon-Avon to see *Macbeth*, or *Romeo and Juliet*, but you're no ordinary scholar – you have a discerning palette. Achieve a little well-earned pretentiousness and come see *The Winter's Tale*, this Wednesday. See Bread Web and Google form for additional information. Both shuttles will depart from Catte Street across from the Bridge of Sighs. (If you do not know where this is, please meet us at the Porter's Lodge fifteen minutes before your bus departs – 9:45 a.m. or 2:45 p.m.) The company we are using is called PEARCES, and this should be clearly displayed on the side of the bus. There will be no dinner served at Lincoln this evening. Here is a list of recommended restaurants, and you should have time to dine no matter which shuttle you are on. The show begins at 7:15.

A KODAK BLOX Moment: Upon student request, we have created a shared folder on Bread Web where you can upload pictures of your intellectual and inspiring adventures around the cultural touchstones of Oxford. Please note, this folder will be accessible to current and future BLSE communities. You can access it here OR you can navigate to it under the Oxford Group > Click Resources (at the top) > BLOX 2025 Community Photo Archive. A special thanks to Middlebury's Tech. Guru, Tom Mckenna, for setting this up for us.

Heard Around Campus: *"The Peanut Butter reminds me of home."*

T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 6, Thursday, the 17th of July, 2025

Calendar:

Sunday, July 20th 5:30 p.m. Pursuing a Doctorette, Oakeshott Room

7:30 p.m. Blue Hall Readings, Oakeshott Room

Affable Reminders:

July 18th: (Before 2 p.m.) Order a T-Shirt and/or Tote (Here or on Bread Web)

July 20th: Mandatory Meal Survey: Will you be dining with us? (Here or on Bread Web)

How to Validate an Experience: Buy a T-shirt (and/or Tote). You can't prove your academic experience happened unless you purchase the amazing signifier that is a T-shirt. Express your individuality by choosing from our wide-ranging color palette. Our totes even have two designs this year! T-shirts are £15 or 15 ~~easy~~ incredibly complex payments of £1 installments. Because we are charmingly antiquated, we only accept cash. The Bread Loaf Office is in Lucky Stairwell #7. Order from here or on Bread Web. Order before Friday 2p.m. - pay by Tuesday.

Blue Hall: Please consider being a reader or audience member at this week's Blue Hall - indicate your poetic curiosity here.

~~Five~~ Six Lessons I Learned from the Last Blue Hall:

1) I thought flowers were dead, cliche metaphors, but they are back! Everything is an orchid – this Paniculum is an orchid.
2) The Jetty's Edge: (1) A phenomenal setting for a poem about the anticipation of one's wedding day. (2) An even better band name!
3) Small acts of courage, within the context of small liminal spaces, may conjure The God of Unbearable Joy.
4) You're so vain that you probably think this poem is about you.
5) Sublessons on Feminine Names: (1) There is an especially finite number of people that can pull off the name 'Mildred.' (2) If you blank on someone's name, just say the first celestial event of incredible destruction that comes to mind.
6) There are some things we can't take with us; there are some things we can't leave behind.

What's Better than Grad School? More Grad School!: "So...you want to do a doctorate?" – Sunday, 5:30-6:30, Oakshott Room Reprising his presentation from 2023, Shelby Knighten (MA, 2022) will share his experience applying to education and English doctoral programs in the UK and US. The presentation will cover doctoral funding, the major application components, ways a Bread Loaf education can offer preparation for doctoral work, and much more—with plenty of time for Q&A. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome.

Writing Center Open!: Observing subtle changes in student physiognomy, clearly we see that some of you are in the midst of writing papers. *It's Dangerous to Go Alone*. *Take this* [opportunity to schedule an appointment with the writing center].

> Hours are *Mondays and Tuesdays from 1:30 - 3:30*. If this doesn't work for you and you'd like to schedule a different time, just let Lila know, and she'll make something work.
>
> The Writing Center is based in The Alexander Baker Seminar Room across the street in the Mitre. To locate it, as soon as you enter the Mitre complex, take the first right into the lobby and then go up the stairs to the right. On the second landing there will be a door that looks like it leads you onto a roof / through a glass panel. Take that door and The Alexander Baker Seminar room will be on the left.
>
> Sign up here (or on Bread Web). If there is no one signed up, you can walk in!
>
> For more information see linked document or see Lila.

Local Excursion: **Christ Church Art Gallery:** This week's local excursion is brought to you by resident professor, and forensic investigator, Gwyneth Lewis. She describes the Christ Church Art Gallery as a "[l]ovely art gallery – less well-known than the Ashmolean. [They have an] unusual collection of paintings and you can see how rich colleges really are" (Lewis, 2025). Gwyneth's favorite piece is a depiction of a scullion - a servant who is condemned to menial tasks. Gwyneth always makes an effort to visit him and see this alternate depiction of college life. Find him in the slightly concealed corridors and tell him we say 'hi.' Admission: £6 Hours, Directions & Other Info: Here

Heard Around Campus: "*We shouldn't outsource our sense of knowing."*

T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 7, Monday, the 21st of July, 2025

Calendar:

Tuesday,	July 22nd	4:00 p.m. BLTN Meeting, JCR
		5:00 p.m. Isobel Armstrong Lecture, Oakeshott Room
		6:15 p.m. Reception, Grove Quad
		7:15 p.m. Formal Hall/High Table
Thursday,	July 24th	7:30 p.m. Trivia Night, Deep Hall
Friday,	July 25th	6:30 p.m. 'Midsummer' Picnic/BBQ, Grove Quad

Affable Reminders:

July 22nd: Pay for your T-Shirt/Tote Order

How Close Is Too Close?: OK gumshoes, get out those magnifying glasses and come to Isobel Armstrong's talk on effective close reading. This will be held on Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Oakeshott Room; reception will follow.

> **Bio:** Isobel Armstrong – Emeritus Professor of English, Birkbeck, University of London, a Fellow of the British Academy and International Scholar of the American Academy. [Her] research interests comprise the long nineteenth century, particularly women's poetry and experimental poetry of the twenty first century. Indicative publications are *Victorian Poetry. Poetry, Poetics and Politics* (1993, second revised edition, 2019), *The Radical Aesthetic* (2000), *Victorian Glassworlds: Glass Culture and the Imagination,1830-1880 (2008), Novel Politics. Democratic Imaginations in Nineteenth-Century Fiction* (2016). *Victorian Glassworlds* received the John Russell Lowell Prize in 2009.

There is No Such Thing as a Free ~~Lunch~~ T-Shirt: Please come to Stairwell 7 (The Bread Loaf Office) to pay for your T-shirt/Tote Order. Again, because we are charmingly antiquated, we only accept physical monies. Hours: M, T, R: 9:-12:45 & 1:45-3:00. Wednesday: 9:00-12:45 & 1:45-2:00. Friday: 9:00-1:00. People who give exact change will walk away with a free soda or bag of crisps to boot.

Nontrivial Pursuit: This Thursday, in Deep Hall, put on your thinking caps, assemble your best brain trust, and *become legend* – prove to your family and loved ones that grad school matters by winning trivia. Simon Faulkner, the best bartender in Oxford, is hosting, and this event is usually one of the highlights of the summer. I will let you know what the hardest question of the evening will be: What is your team name? (Is it witty enough? Is it too witty? Are you just showing off with some esoteric literary allusion?) Details and rules on team size etc. will be in the next issue of the Paniculum and will also be posted on Bread Web.

Heard Around Campus: *"Is that your algorithm?"*

T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 8, Thursday, the 25th of July, 2025

Calendar:

Thursday, July 24th 7:30 p.m. Trivia Night, Deep Hall

Friday, July 25th 6:00 p.m. 'Midsummer' Picnic/BBQ, Grove Quad

Sunday, July 27th 7:30 p.m. Blue Hall Readings, Oakeshott Room

Affable Reminders:

Overdue: Pay for your T-Shirt/Tote Order BLOX Office Hours: M, T, R: 9:-12:45 & 1:45-3:00
W: 9:00-12:45 & 1:45-2:00 F: 9:00-1:00

July 27th: Mandatory Meal Survey: Will you be dining with us? (Here or on Bread Web)

~~**Avengers**~~ **Avant-garde Scholars Assemble**: Assemble your favorite kind of think tank and come to trivia tonight. Teams are capped at 6 organisms. The event starts at 7:30 p.m., and we should crown our resident geniuses by 10 p.m. Sample trivia question below to help get you started:

In Oxford, which is the correct side of the street to walk on?

A) Right
B) Left
C) Chaos. Pure Chaos. *What if there are no rules?*

66.66666667% Summer Picnic: This Friday, come to our not-so-quite Midsummer BBQ. Put on some sunscreen, don a cheesy apron, and perhaps have a dad joke or two at the ready if you are feeling homesick. Dinner will be served a little earlier (6:00-7:00 p.m.), and Deep Hall will be open. Feel free to come early or stay late – play some elitist croquet or elegant bocce – alternatively construct an effigy and delight in unbridled atavism. *Kill the beast, cut its throat, drink its blood.*

Blue Hall: Please consider being a reader or audience member at this week's Blue Hall - indicate your unchecked creativity here.

Five Lessons I Learned from the Last Blue Hall:

1) If you have a precarious metaphor for life, your therapist will surely ask some followup questions.
2) We can eliminate profoundly loaded, historical architecture with distance. That being said, *The Bells are Ruthless.*

    This reminds me:

    ***The Bells are Ruthless* and/or Beautiful:** Know that there is a peal event (when bells keep ringing) Sunday 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

3) If you have organic segues between your poems, you create poems within poems – worlds within worlds.
4) We all have an intricate muscle memory operating in the subconscious realm – if we make this conscious, we become empowered.
5) If there is something you love that others consider gauche, write a poem about it to elevate it to cafe society status.

Local Excursion: **Walk out to Port Meadow.** This week's local excursion is brought to you by David Russell. Enjoy close reading or distance reading in this area, which has been designated as commonland since the 11th Century. This area has even been noted in the Domesday Book. There is a quaint place called The Medley "that some young people set up five years ago [...] They have pizza – which is edible" and well-priced pints (Russell, 2025). (I would use this restaurant as a GPS location to find the area.) One note of caution, "It's only really good if it's not raining" (Russell, 2025). Cost: Free-£20 (depending on your pint and/or pizza needs).
P.S. Please do not go here prematurely if you are in the *Middlemarch* class as this will be part of your final exam.

Heard Around Campus: "I took like three naps today."

T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 9, Monday, the 28th of July, 2025

Calendar:

Tuesday, July 22nd 4:00 p.m. BLTN Meeting, JCR

5:00 p.m. Francis Leneghan Lecture, Oakeshott Room

6:15 p.m. Reception, Grove Quad

7:15 p.m. Formal Hall/High Table

Affable Reminders:

Overdue: Mandatory Meal Survey: Will you be dining with us? (Here or on Bread Web)

Looking Ahead:

Thursday, August 7th 6:30 p.m. Senior Picnic/BBQ, Grove Quad (RSVPs will be sent out soon.)

~~**Murder**~~ **Mystery Lecture:** OK gumshoes, hopefully Isobel Armstrong's lecture on close reading and aesthetic experiences prepared us for this. On Tuesday (5 p.m.) in the Oakeshott Room, Francis Leneghan will facilitate solving "The Riddle of the Franks Casket and the Beginnings of English Literature":

> For centuries scholars have been fascinated and puzzled by the mystery of the Franks Casket, a small whalebone box made in seventh or eighth century Northumbria which features a complex and enigmatic artistic scheme. Borges was obsessed by it. The outside of the box features a series of panels depicting scenes from Roman, Germanic, Jewish and Christian history. Accompanying these images are short texts inscribed in roman and runic script, in Latin and Old English, among them perhaps the earliest piece of English poetry. It is entirely unknown for whom the box was made or for what purpose. In this lecture, [Francis] will attempt to solve this riddle with the aid of a replica, a lot of pictures and [our] help!

Bio: Francis is Professor of Old English at the Faculty of English. Before coming to Oxford in 2008, he taught medieval English at Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin. He is interested in all aspects of Old English literature, especially heroic poetry, the reception of the Bible and writing associated with King Alfred. He is currently working on a project on Old English prose, funded by a Leverhulme Trust Fellowship (2023–24) and an AHRC Research, Development and Engagement Fellowship (2024–26). He is the author of The Dynastic Drama of 'Beowulf' (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2020) and co-editor of The Age of Alfred: Rethinking English Literary Culture c. 850–950 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2024), Ideas of the World in Early Medieval English Literature (Turnhout: Brepols, 2022) and The Psalms and Medieval English Literature: From the Conversion to the Reformation (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2017).

Today's Meditation: Does the weather profoundly affect my mood – or I am more so invested in the idea that the weather affects my mood as a means to existential elation?

Heard Around Campus: *"After this Lunch, I now feel entirely justified in my paper topic."*

T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 10, Thursday, the 31st of July, 2025

Calendar:

Sunday, August 2nd 7:30 p.m. Blue Hall Readings, Oakeshott Room

Looking Ahead:

Thursday, August 7th 6:00 p.m. Senior Picnic/BBQ (All Welcome!), Grove Quad

Friday, August 8th 5:00 p.m. Senior Graduation Rehearsal, Chapel Quad

Affable Reminders:

Extra T-Shirts and Totes for Sale. In the office, We have several white t-shirts for sale with this year's winning design (£15) and classic design totes (£15 premium and £8 regular).

August 3rd : Mandatory Meal Survey: Will you be dining with us? (Here or on Bread Web)

August 7th: Seniors: Please pay for your gowns (£25) and/or your Commencement Dinner guests (£45 each). (Pay in the Bread Loaf Office - Staircase 7).

August 8th: Consider Donating Objects (fans, teakettles, etc) to the Bread Loaf Office (see below). (We accept them now, but Friday is a soft cutoff.)

Blue Hall: Please consider being a reader or audience member at this week's Blue Hall. Indicate your existential freedom by consulting Bread Web and filling out the Google form – the form should be uploaded shortly.

Five Moments that Stuck with me from the Last Blue Hall*:

1) *Wives are machines that nourish everyone except themselves.*
2) *Douchy sunglasses that mirrored only himself.*
3) *The candidate's lips part to differentiate the domestic from the international.*
4) *Amid the chaos, there I am. / There I was …*
5) *We buoyant, inside teacups – like vermin*

(*Please forgive this humble writer if I accidentally misquoted your work.)

Local Excursion: **Walk to Saint Mary's Church (Iffley).** This week's excursion is a collaborative (ad)venture brought to us by Mark Turner and David Russell. The church is about an hour walk from campus and it is free admission. "It's a perfect Norman church [and includes] beakhead ornamentation around the door" (Turner & Russell, 2025). Also, "there is a pub you can stop at. It's a great pub; it's a nice pub. What's it called?" (Russell, 2025). It is called the Isis Farmhouse (Isis being an old local name for Thames). It is advised to attend the pub first, enroute to the church, to break up the walk and "to put you in the spiritual mood" (Turner, 2025). Additional information and hours for the church here. And finally, "for medievalists interested in this sort of thing, [they have] an anchorite cell [on the premises]" (Russell, 2025).

Checking Out (This information will also be republished in the final issues):

Gratuity: If you are able to, we recommend *tipping your Scout* (That's the person who has been cleaning your room all summer.). A standard tip would be *£15/£20,* which you can leave in your room when you depart or deliver by hand when you happen to see them. (I personally am not looking forward to going back to my world where my only grey towel remains unwashed and unfolded – *I didn't buy it; it was in the apartment when I moved in. [...] It never fully dries. The towel lives and so do we*.)

What to Do with Your Earthly Materials:

- ***For Those Who Come After:*** Please consider donating anything you believe may be helpful to future generations of students. We take lamps, teakettles, fans, mattress pads, yoga mats, books, laundry detergent, art supplies (for future Page to Stagers), totes, and unpublished poetry. Please bring these to the Bread Loaf Office (Staircase 7) by Friday August 8th. We may still take things Saturday and/or Sunday, but we are really hoping to do most of the packing away Friday. Note: You can also donate to Oxfam across the street.

- ***What's in the Box??!:*** You can try shipping a box using DHL, which is located upstairs at Ryman Stationers on High Street. The nice thing about this is that they charge a flat fee per box, so instead of getting horrible sticker shock when you bring your things to the Post Office, you can mentally prepare yourself before they ring you up at the register. Also, they'll give you a box to use, so you can just show up with a giant Sainsbury bag of random stuff and pack it there instead of trying to find a box somewhere else. *You need to pack it in front of them and fill out a customs form (in advance or onsite).*

- **It's in the Bag:** You can also just use a service like Sendmybag which will handle your luggage door to door. It will likely cost you $100-200 though, so it may only be worth it if you really don't want to deal with your own luggage or you really have too much stuff.

An Anticlimatic Departure: Although it would be cool if there was an elaborate ritual, checking out of Lincoln is pretty easy: Give your key to the porter and let them know you're leaving. We wish you luck in your future scholarly adventures.

T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 11, Monday, the 4th of August, 2025

Calendar:

Tuesday,	August 5th	4:00 p.m. BLTN Meeting, JCR
Wednesday,	August 6th	5:00 p.m. Will Freed's Capstone Presentation, (Stairwell) 14.02
Thursday,	August 7th	6:00 p.m. Senior Picnic/BBQ (All Welcome!), Grove Quad
Friday,	August 8th	5:00 p.m. Senior Graduation Rehearsal, Chapel Quad
Saturday,	August 9th	Commencement and Commencement Dinner (timetable will be published in Thursday's edition)

Affable Reminders:

Extra T-Shirts and Totes for Sale. In the office, we have several white t-shirts for sale with this year's winning design (£15) and classic design totes (£15 premium and £8 regular).

Overdue : Mandatory Meal Survey: Will you be dining with us? (Here or on Bread Web)

August 7th: Seniors: Please pay for your gowns (£25) and/or your Commencement Dinner guests (£45 each). (Pay in the Bread Loaf Office - Staircase 7).

August 8th: Consider Donating Objects (fans, teakettles, etc) to the Bread Loaf Office (see below). (We accept them now, but Friday is a soft cutoff.)

Blue Hall: All the Blue Hall events have been therapeutic and I wish I could take them into the school year as a panacea – especially for Sunday Night Anxiety.

~~Five~~ Six Lessons from the *Last* Blue Hall:

1) The Cello is perhaps the most trauma-rich musical instrument.
2) Earnestness may be annoying or endearing, but it is always eccentric.
3) Meals yield space for contemplation and provide a smorgasbord of potent metaphors.
4) On Poetry and Academia: We need to repent for moments of academic transition. Poetry may seem like artifice in the context of contemporary tragedies, but it offers us resources that other mediums do not have.
5) Corrupting the natural succession of things kills us more slowly, but is as unmerciful as bullets.
6) Old English Emo = my new favorite genre of everything.

Heard Around Campus: "*One does not have to fear what one knows will never come to fruition*."

Checking Out (This information will also be republished in the final issues):

Gratuity: If you are able to, we recommend *tipping your Scout* (That's the person who has been cleaning your room all summer.). A standard tip would be *£15/£20,* which you can leave in your room when you depart or deliver by hand when you happen to see them. (I personally am not looking forward to going back to my world where my only grey towel remains unwashed and unfolded – *I didn't buy it; it was in the apartment when I moved in. [...] It never fully dries. The towel lives and so do we*.)

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T H E P A N I C U L U M

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 45, No. 12, Thursday, the 7th of August, 2025

Calendar:

Thursday, August 7th 6:00 p.m. Senior Picnic/BBQ (All Welcome!), Grove Quad

Friday, August 8th 5:00 p.m. Senior Graduation Rehearsal, Chapel Quad

Saturday, August 9th Commencement and Commencement Dinner

4:45-5:30 p.m.: Seniors Gather to Don Your Robe (Photo Ops.), Chapel Quad

5:30-6:30 p.m.: Commencement, Lincoln College Chapel
(All are welcome but seating is limited. Guests of seniors will be granted priority.)

6:30-7:30 p.m.: Reception (All Welcome!), Rector's Garden

7:30 p.m.: Formal Hall/Commencement Dinner

Sunday, August 10th 6:30 a.m. Breakfast and 10 a.m. Checkout

Affable Reminders:

Extra T-Shirts and Totes for Sale. In the office, we have several white t-shirts for sale with this year's winning design (£15) and classic design totes (£15 premium and £8 regular).

August 7th: Seniors: Please pay for your gowns (£25) and/or your Commencement Dinner guests (£45 each). (Pay in the Bread Loaf Office - Staircase 7).

August 8th: Consider Donating Objects (fans, teakettles, etc) to the Bread Loaf Office (see below). (We accept them now, but Friday is a soft cutoff.)

Barbenheimer: This evening, with our favorite cup bearer and trivia guru, Simon Faulkner, celebrate the end of the world (aka BLOX 2025) with a BBQ! Delight in a Pimm's cup and other refreshing beverages at 6 p.m.; food will be served at 6:30 p.m. As a thank you from the senior class, Lincoln staff will also be joining us as we meander into the sunset. What better way to pay homage to American culture right before we fly home with a BBQ? Simulacras always triumph over the original.

Heard Around Campus: *"Every week here, my radius has shrunk."*

Checking Out (This information will also be republished in the final issues):

Gratuity: If you are able to, we recommend *tipping your Scout* (That's the person who has been cleaning your room all summer.). A standard tip would be *£15/£20,* which you can leave in your room when you depart or deliver by hand when you happen to see them. (I personally am not looking forward to going back to my world where my only grey towel remains unwashed and unfolded – *I didn't buy it; it was in the apartment when I moved in. [...] It never fully dries. The towel lives and so do we*.)

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